

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of creating and searching a database of multi-lingual documents, the method comprising the steps of:

using a keyword dictionary to extract keywords;

translating the keywords into the languages supported by a bi-directional synonym listing;

creating a keyword listing in each supported language;

using the keywords in each supported language to create more than one inverted index of the documents including the keywords, one inverted index being in a first language and another inverted index being in a second language;

retrieving documents in a search mode comprising the steps of:

translating ~~the search terms~~ a search term in a query from the first language to the second language using the same bi-directional synonym listing,

generating a translated query based on the translated search term,

submitting ~~parallel inquiries~~ the query and the translated query to first and second different inverted indices,

submitting one of the query and the translated query to the other of the first and second inverted indices,

receiving first and second results of the search using the first and second inverted indices and

selecting one of the first and second results for use.

2. (Original) A method including the steps of Claim 1 wherein the step of using the keywords to create an inverted index includes the step of using the Unicode system to manage multiple languages.

3. (Original) A method of searching a database including the steps of Claim 1 wherein the step of generating an inquiry includes identifying the language in which it is presented.

4. (Currently amended) A method of searching a database including documents written in more than one language, the steps of the method comprising:

identifying a search in one language;

converting the search into another language;

searching the database in both the one language and the another language, wherein the searching includes locating a document written in one of the one language and the another language based on the presence of a keyword in the other of the one language and the another language, and generating a first list of results associated with the one language and a second list of results from the another language; and

providing the first and second lists of search results as output.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of converting the search into another language includes the step of using a bi-directional keyword dictionary.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the method further includes the step of selecting one of the first list of results and the second list of results as the output of the search.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the step of converting a search term into another language includes the step of transposing it to the Unicode system.

8. (Currently amended) A system for searching a database based on an input search, the system comprising:

a synonym list for keywords which includes corresponding words in at least a first and a second language;

an inverted index for the database including keywords and synonyms for keywords based on the synonym list;

an indicator of the language associated with the input search along with a selection of whether documents are desired in the natural language or in all languages;

a search engine responsive to the natural language indication and the selection of documents, said search engine using the inverted index to determine a first set of results which include the documents which correspond to the input search in the input language and a second set of results which correspond to the documents which include documents which are not in the input language, wherein the search engine searches documents written in the first language for the presence of a keyword in the first language and the presence of a corresponding keyword in the second language.

9. (Original) A system of the type described in Claim 8 wherein the synonym list is a two-way synonym list which is usable in converting a search time from a first language to a second language and from a second language to a first language.

10. (Original) A searching system of the type described in Claim 8 wherein the converting of search terms uses the Unicode system for managing multiple languages.

11. (Currently amended) A database searching program stored on a medium comprising:

a first module which includes a bi-directional synonym listing of terms;

a second module which receives text and selects one or more keywords;

a third module which receives the one or more keywords and translates the one or more keywords into another language;

a fourth module which searches a database using the keywords in one language and the translations of keywords using the translations of the third module, said fourth module creating a first set of results using which includes documents a first language and a second set of results which includes documents in a language other than the first language, wherein one of the first and second sets of results is based on the keywords and the translations of keywords; and

a fifth module which receives an indication from the user as to whether results in the first language or results including documents in a second language are desired.

12. (Original) A program including the elements of Claim 11 wherein the third module of the program which translates words into another language uses the Unicode system for managing multiple languages.

13. (Original) A program including the elements of Claim 11 where the program further includes a module for identifying the language of the user and uses the language of the user in the third module which translates the keywords.

14. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the database includes a first inverted index in the one language and a second inverted index in the another language.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the searching step includes:

- applying the search to the first inverted index;
- applying the converted search to the second inverted index; and
- applying at least one of the search and the converted search to the other of the first inverted index and the second inverted index.